

CAMP DISCOVERY '23

At Beechwood Park, Maysville, KY

Jessica Johnson, Director
April, 2023

Sponsored by Maysville Initiatives, Inc.
33 West Second Street, Third Floor
Maysville, KY 41056

🌿 *Announcing a New Season!* 🌿

Rebounding After Covid-19

During 2020 and 2021, due to pandemic restrictions, we were unable to have Camp Discovery. We continued to do what we could do: we developed a year-round meals program. If we couldn't do Camp, at least we could provide nutritional assistance!

Then, in 2022, we began Camp Discovery all over again. It was like starting from scratch in some ways. We discovered the impact of the Pandemic on our camper population and our supporters: both were down by about 30%.



One of the biggest sandboxes around!!!

We had two Covid scares last summer, with campers and staff diagnosed with Covid. We took a "quarantine" break of five days in each case, on the advice of the Health Department. When we resumed Camp after each Covid break, we had fewer campers.



Playing with chalk

2023 is a rebuilding year. Our staff is already getting ready for camp to begin this summer, on the Monday or Tuesday after school vacation begins. We have two major foundations that have stuck with us through the Pandemic: The Hayswood Foundation and the Charles E. & Mary E. Scripps Foundation. To their basic support we have now added the Carmeuse Foundation, which has been involved and responsive. Because of rising costs for both staff and supplies, we need additional business and foundation support. (We don't receive federal or state money. It's all private and local.)

We're grateful of course to all our individual donors as well. They are half our income!



Chalk messages, including "Camp Discovery is the Best"

Whom Do We Serve?

Some of our demographics are quite ordinary. Our campers were 52% girls; 48% boys. We had more 9-to-12 year olds (50%) than 5-to-8 year olds (44%). The last 6% of those served were JCs: our Junior Counselors. These are young people who have been campers in the past but have "aged out" of eligibility. Last year we had eight JCs, who participated in all our activities, meals and field trips, but also offered valuable assistance to our counselors.

We fed roughly 16,250 breakfasts and lunches to hungry campers. This is an important function of camp each summer. We feed hungry kids.



Cooking School at Mason County Extension Center

Every camper must have a registration form filled out and signed by his/her parent or guardian. The signed form gives the camper permission to go on field trips, to be treated in case of an emergency, and important contact information for camp staff.

The registration form tells us the income of each camper's household. 74% of our campers come from households at or below the 2022 Federal poverty line (\$24,860 for a family of 3).



Getting everybody into roller skates at the rink

In 2022, 71% of our campers came from single parent households. 8% of our campers were living with a guardian or a grandparent and 21% were living with both parents.

Campers brought with them a variety of special needs. 28 had been diagnosed as ADD or ADHD. Another 17 campers had difficulties with anxiety and/or PTSD. It's important for staff to know what challenges campers are dealing with when they arrive at Camp.

Our registration form also gives campers an opportunity to tell us what they are interested in, and how many prior years they have attended Camp Discovery.

Why Support Camp Discovery?

There are a number of ways Camp Discovery is of value to our community, and worthy of your support.

We contribute to the health of our campers. We provide healthy, nutritional support to campers during their summer vacation. This means breakfast, lunch & snack every day, Monday thru Friday, all summer long. For some campers, it's a long wait until Monday morning, when they can get their next meal after a hungry weekend...

Our counselors are all trained in First Aid and CPR. They are ready to respond as necessary to camper's health and well-being.



Quiet Time reading Library books on the big parachute

Camp Discovery offers ongoing summertime educational opportunities. We partner with the local library to provide age-appropriate books. We sponsor a reading competition with prizes for the most books read at camp or books read to younger campers. Thirteen weeks of no reading can set back students' reading skills.

Our field trips are designed to broaden our campers' experience of their local and regional community, and introduce our campers to local business and



Mayor Debra Cotterill & City Manager Matt Wallingford serve ice cream

community leaders. We are building connections between our campers and our community which will pay off for years to come. We have visits by local police, fire and emergency squads, to break down camper stereotypes about community services.

Camp Discovery is addressing a summertime quandary for parents by offering FREE summer child-care, so adults are better able to pursue full-time employment or continue their educational plan. That's our contribution to improving the economic well-being of families in our area.

The Department of Justice says young people are more likely to be either the victim or perpetrator of crime during the long, unsupervised hours of summer. We provide safe, supervised activities for our campers, 40 hours a week. We offer our campers drug prevention education, cooking school, babysitter training and swimming lessons. We invite the football team and the cheerleaders to come to Camp and do skills training with interested campers. We do education on bullying!



We Make a Difference:

There are a lot of statistics in this newsletter. One of the things we figured out: a camper who attends each summer's Camp Discovery program will put in a year of his or her life at Camp by the age of twelve!

Camp Discovery can make a big difference!

Camp Needs...

We need your help. Can you give us some time? Share your skills? Help with supplies? A monetary contribution? Here are some of our ongoing needs:

Volunteer Activities

- How to make a healthy snack
- Read [to/with] younger campers
- Publish a camp newsletter
- Take apart an old computer
- Face painting
- Tie dye shirts
- Cake decorating
- Microwave cooking

Supplies for Camp

- Basketballs – 5
- Soccer Balls – 4
- Volleyballs – 2
- Playground balls – 10
- Hula Hoops – 15
- Wiffle Bats/Balls- 4-5 sets
- Footballs – 3
- Jump Ropes – 12
- Decks of Cards – 10
- Card Games
- Board Games
- Puzzles
- Pens – 150
- Pencils – 150
- Scissors – 24
- Markers (washable)
- Craft Glue
- Construction paper
- Posterboard
- New crayons
- Lined paper
- Water Balloons (1000s!)
- Hand soap
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Lysol Wipes
- Cleaning Supplies
- First Aid Kits / BandAids

Snacks, Etc.

- Sheet cake (to feed 100+)
- Lemonade
- Apples & Peanut Butter
- Cream Cheese & Celery
- Cheese & Crackers
- Veggies & Dip
- No-Bake Cookies
- Rice Crispy snacks
- Goldfish
- Pretzels / Pretzel sticks
- Freezer pops
- Homemade popsicles
- Ice Cream Sandwiches
- Cupcakes/cookies
- Granola bars
- Nuts / Dried fruit
- Microwave popcorn

There are lots of ways to support Camp Discovery! If you want to donate materials (see above) bring them to Beechwood Park after camp begins, or send them to our office at 33 West 2nd Street, 3rd Floor, Maysville, KY 41056.

To volunteer your time/talent at camp doing a special activity, contact our office.

Donations to Camp Discovery

It takes more than \$100,000 to give our campers good nutrition, safety and an intellectually stimulating summer! We already have half that amount in the bank.

We need the support of individuals and businesses in our community for this summer program that cares for our children. [It takes a village...]

What happens if we don't have the money to fund Camp Discovery this summer? We will have to close early, after only a partial summer of support and care for our campers. Some young people will not have good nutrition for that part of their summer. They will lose the safety and supervision Camp provides.

Camp Discovery is one of the hidden treasures of our area! Not much is said, but the program is of real benefit to our children.

If you would like to be a part of this great project, send your tax-deductible donation to Camp Discovery (Maysville Initiatives), 33 West 2nd Street, Third Floor, Maysville, KY 41056.

An envelope is provided with this newsletter, so you don't even have to remember our address! Online, see: <https://micd.betterworld.org/campaigns/camp-discovery-2023>